

Exp

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.



No. 641.



GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 609.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

July, 1910.



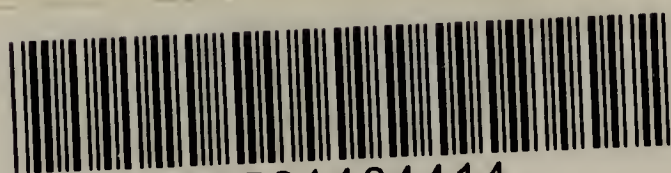
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1910.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
FINANCIAL	4
TRADE	6
AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	12
LEGISLATION	13
EDUCATION	13
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	15
JUDICIAL STATISTICS	16
VITAL STATISTICS	18
MAIL, POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES	20
MILITARY FORCES	21
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	21



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GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 609.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
23rd May, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1909, together with an interesting report on it which has been prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c.; &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1909.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue, the largest yet recorded in this Colony, amounted to £72,675 11s. 10d., and exceeded that of 1907 (the next largest) by £6,783, and that of 1908 by £14,777 11s. 9d. The estimated revenue for the year was £59,514 and the actual revenue received exceeded this by £13,161 11s. 10d. This large increase is due to the exceptionally good ground-nut season.

The increase is accounted for chiefly under the following heads:—

“Customs,” £9,795, due to the larger importation of spirits and tobacco and to the larger exportation of ground-nuts, on which there is a duty of 6s. 8d. per ton.

“Post Office,” £1,585, is owing to the sale of the new issue of stamps.

“Miscellaneous,” £440, almost entirely due to the profit on the supply of rice to the natives in the Protectorate during 1907-1908 paid for in 1909.

“Protectorate,” £668, caused by the greater influx of farmers and by more pasturage fees and rents being paid.

“Land Sales,” £564, due to the transfer of “Premiums on leases” to this head from that of “Protectorate.”

There is a decrease of £94 under “Fees” due to over-estimating, and one of £126 under “Government Vessels” due to the Colonial steamer, “Mansah Kilah,” having been laid up for some time for repairs, her earnings being less in consequence.

The amount of revenue received under “Customs” was:—import duty, £37,420; export duty, £17,881; making a total of £55,301.

The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1908 and 1909 with their respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.	1908.	1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
5 per cent. <i>Ad valorem</i> duty ...	5,820	5,943	123	—
Wine	1,070	1,002	—	68
Spirits	5,348	6,573	1,225	—
Malt Liquor	107	120	13	—
Tobacco	3,297	6,977	3,680	—
Oil and Turps, &c.	727	671	—	56
Sugar	2,572	2,919	347	—
Kola Nuts	11,312	9,985	—	1,327
Rice	1,960	1,711	—	249
Guns and Pistols	270	271	1	—
Powder	115	109	—	6
Salt	407	582	175	—
Kerosene	397	546	149	—
Coffee, Raw	8	3	—	5
Total	33,410	37,412	5,713	1,711
<i>Exports—</i>				
Ground-nuts	10,654	17,881	7,227	—
	44,064	55,293	12,940	1,711

The expenditure for the year amounted to £56,237 8s. 6d., being £1,327 11s. 6d. less than the Estimates.

The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Governor (£124), due to under-estimate of (1) the allowance drawn by the Deputy-Governor and A.D.C. and Private Secretary to the Acting Governor, and (2) travelling allowances.

Government Vessels (£264), due to special repairs in dry dock at Dakar (French Senegal) to the Government steamer “Mansah Kilah,” and excess on the coal vote.

Agriculture (£281), due to purchase of two Ayrshire bulls and salary of attendants, forage, &c.

The principal decreases are as under:—

Colonial Secretary (£182), due to salary saved during vacancy in this appointment.

Protectorate (£833), due to over-estimating under several sub-heads.

Education (£206), due to a vacancy in one appointment, and to overestimating the earnings of the schools.

Frontier Force (£241), due to most items being over-estimated.

Public Works Recurrent (£297), due to certain works not having been fully completed in the year.

Public Works Extraordinary (£443), due to the inclusion of the tramline loan, it having been placed in the Estimates under this vote and subsequently adjusted. The actual expenditure (omitting the tramline amount of £750) was in excess of the Estimates, owing to the extra cost of the Kai Hai works.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the past ten years:—

Year.					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1900	...	...	...	...	49,161	29,818
1901	...	...	...	...	43,726	48,518
1902	...	...	...	...	51,016	51,536
1903	...	...	...	...	55,564	67,504
1904	...	...	...	...	54,179	52,300
1905	...	...	...	...	51,868	72,297
1906	...	...	...	...	65,430	56,988
1907	...	...	...	...	65,892	57,729
1908	...	...	...	...	57,898	61,097
1909	...	...	...	...	72,675	56,237

No additional taxation was introduced during the year.

The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1909, was £58,276 1s. 8d., as compared with £39,574 14s. 5d., being an increase of £18,701 7s. 3d. If from this sum the value of Public Works Department stores on stock on 31st December, 1909, included as an asset for the first time, is deducted, viz.: £2,263 3s. 11d., the actual cash increase in the year 1909 amounted to £16,438 3s. 4d.

The surplus funds are invested in Government securities, and on 31st December, 1909, amounted to £29,110 5s. 3*d.*, the actual cost having been £28,375 6s. 9*d.*

The Colony has no public debt.

The legal tender and usual currency is British, but a great number of five-franc pieces are in circulation the estimated value of which is £150,000; and these are received at an exchange value of 3s. 10½*d.* Bank of England notes are not legal tender but are accepted at the Bank of British West Africa, the only bank in Bathurst. The circulation is small. There is also a little French gold in the Colony.

The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

There are two Municipal Boards in the Colony, namely, the Board of Health (which consists of the Senior Medical Officer as Chairman, and the Colonial Engineer (both *ex-officio*), and six members appointed by the Governor) and the McCarthy Square Board.

The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town at 3 per cent., and from fees collected from the slaughter-house, and a grant-in-aid from Government.

The following was the revenue received in 1909:—Local rates, £556; slaughter-house fees, £89; grant-in-aid, £400; miscellaneous, £2; total, £1,047.

The expenditure under all heads, including scavenging and lighting, amounted to £1,181.

The market is under the supervision of an inspector and is visited daily by a medical officer. It is in every way suitable to the requirements and the climate.

The slaughter-house is an iron structure built out into the river and approached by a pier.

McCarthy Square is situated in the centre of the town and is used as a parade ground by the West African Frontier Force and as a recreation ground for the public. Its upkeep is provided for by a grant from Government.

TRADE.

The total value of the trade of the Colony, inwards and outwards, for the year 1909 amounted to £882,524, against £764,878 in 1908, an increase of £117,646.

The total value of all imports was £404,560, against £390,740 in 1908, being an increase of £13,820.

The following table shows the imports classified so as to distinguish commercial from Government imports and specie for the five years 1905-1909:—

Return of Imports, 1905-1909.

Year.	Free Imports.		Specific.		<i>Ad valorem.</i>		Total.		Specie.	Grand Total
	Com- mercial.	Govern- ment.	Com- mercial.	Govern- ment.	Com- mercial.	Govern- ment.	Com- mercial.	Govern- ment.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905 ..	3,112	237	75,488	265	99,865	2,757	178,465	3,260	123,450	305,181
1906 ..	5,030	1,256	109,527	230	149,389	15,050	263,953	16,536	167,168	447,657
1907 ..	3,933	2,158	140,799	462	144,209	4,430	288,941	7,050	149,368	445,359
1908 ..	869	510	104,250	409	133,226	6,186	238,345	7,105	145,290	390,740
1909 ..	152,383	1,203	112,681	208	133,100	4,981	398,164	6,392	146,620	551,176

Increases.—The principal heads showing an increase were:—cotton goods (£10,157), tobacco (£6,496), kola nuts (£5,615), and sugar (£1,000).

Cotton Goods.—The total import was valued at £79,028, of which £74,409 came from Great Britain, £2,749 from France, and £1,516 from Germany.

The increase in cotton goods from Great Britain was £17,147, while there was a decrease from France of £6,912, an increase from Germany of £682 and from “Other Countries” a decrease of £760.

Tobacco.—The quantity imported shows an increase in weight of 218,460 lbs., with an increased value of £6,496.

The following comparative table shows the countries from which unmanufactured tobacco was imported in 1908 and 1909, respectively:—

	1908.	1909.
	lbs.	lbs.
Great Britain ...	113,165	79,196
French Colonies ...	Nil.	20,663
France ...	Nil.	105,892
Germany ...	59,076	236
America ...	10,146	194,248
	<hr/> 182,387 <hr/>	<hr/> 400,235 <hr/>

Kola Nuts.—There was a decrease of 206,467 lbs. in quantity, but an increase of £5,615 in value; the amount in 1908 being 905,045 lbs., of the value of £39,724.

Wines and Spirits.—There was an increase in the value of wines of £112, and in that of spirits of £343.

In 1908 the importation of rum was valued at £585, while in 1909 it rose to £1,105, and the value of gin, brandy, and whisky decreased.

The increase in wines was due to the quantity of claret imported.

Return showing total quantity, value, &c., of spirits of all kinds imported into the Colony of the Gambia during the years 1905-1909.

Article.	1905.				1906.				1907.				1908.				1909.			
	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.
Alcohol	Galls. 3	£ 1		£ 1	Galls. —	£ —		£ —	Galls. —	£ —		£ —	Galls. —	£ —		£ —	Galls. —	£ —		£ —
Brandy	147	136		32	180	139		37	279	187		58	180	138		38	104	74		22
Gin (unsweetened)	10,227	1,590		2,047	22,011	3,662		4,406	11,820	2,011		2,366	17,206	2,928		3,157	18,902	2,307		2,843
Rum	5,790	606		1,159	20,822	1,651		4,169	8,664	896		1,736	5,307	586		1,194	9,929	1,106		2,334
Spirit (sweetened)	2,269	687		452	2,967	847		606	2,690	852		543	3,323	936		683	4,660	1,179		980
Whisky	969	541		187	1,336	675		264	1,722	926		343	1,305	656		276	1,889	924		394
Total	19,405	3,561		3,878	47,316	6,974		9,482	25,175	4,872		5,046	27,334	5,247		5,348	35,484	5,390		6,573

Sugar.—There was an increase in 1909 of 38 tons in weight and of £1,000 in value. 275 tons came from France, 30 tons from Great Britain, and 7 tons from Germany.

Salt shows an increase of 699 tons in quantity and £576 in value. Of the total imported in 1908 (1,627 tons), 101 tons came from Germany; while the whole amount in 1909 (2,326 tons) came from the Portuguese Colonies.

Rice.—There is a large decrease of 497 tons in quantity and £6,048 in value due to the favourable agricultural season and the abundance of the staple food of the inhabitants, viz., *koos* or millet.

The value of the specie imported during the year was £146,620 4s. 11d., being £1,330 in excess of the year 1908.

The percentages of the total imports, exclusive of specie, coming from the various countries are as follows:—

Great Britain	...	...	...	49	
British Colonies	...	...	...	18½	
					67½
France and its Colonies	...	...	—	20	
Germany	...	...	...	7	
Other Countries	...	...	...	5½	
					100

The total value of all exports during the year was £477,964, being an increase of £103,826 over 1908.

The principal articles exported were ground-nuts, hides, kola-nuts, palm kernels, beeswax, and rubber.

Ground-nuts.—A record crop was gathered, and the total amount exported, 53,644 tons, shows an increase of 21,680 tons beyond the preceding year and an increase of 8,170 tons over 1903, the record year prior to 1909.

This trade, which commenced in the year 1835 in consequence of the demand for nuts in America and England, has now almost entirely passed over to France. It is understood that an attempt is to be made by a firm in England to manufacture oil from the nuts supplied from the Gambia, and it is hoped that this may result in a greater proportion of the trade going to the mother country.

Hides show a further increase, the number, 33,411, being 1,731 in excess of those exported in 1908, with an increased value of £1,887.

Kola-nuts.—The trade in these nuts consists of re-exported kolas sent from this Colony to the adjacent French possessions.

Palm Kernels.—There was a decrease of two tons in quantity and an increase of £38 in value.

Beeswax.—There was a decrease of 11 tons in quantity and £856 in value.

Rubber.—The falling-off in the quantity of rubber exported in 1909 was not so large as in the preceding year, but the trade continues on the downward grade, showing a decrease of 3,020 lbs. from 1908. This is probably due to the large amount of cultivated rubber obtained from other countries and the improved method of extraction used. There are no rubber plantations in this country; the rubber exported is taken direct from forest trees.

The following return shows the principal articles of export with their values:—

Exports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1908.	1909.	1908.	1909.		
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts ...	31,964	53,644	245,084	323,231	78,147	—
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber ...	18,568	15,548	1,163	1,550	387	—
Wax ...	73,469	48,969	3,036	2,180	—	856
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels...	390	389	3,488	3,526	38	—
	No.	No.				
Hides ...	31,680	33,411	6,633	8,520	1,887	—

Specie.—The value of specie exported during the year amounted to £126,745 0s. 10*d.*, against £102,480 7s. 3*d.* in 1908.

Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, 82 per cent. goes to France and its Colonies, 7 per cent. to Great Britain and its Colonies, and 4 per cent. to Germany.

Shipping.—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 451, with an aggregate of 495,963 tons, being an increase of 42 vessels and 77,522 tons beyond those registered in 1908.

The increase is due to the very large crop of ground-nuts available for exportation during the year.

The following comparative table shows the classification, tonnage, and nationality of vessels entered during the years from 1905 to 1909:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1905.			1906.			1907.			1908.			1909.		
	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.
British	Tons. 204,952	Tons. 17	Tons. 204,969	Tons. 254,842	Tons. 323	Tons. 255,165	Tons. 304,261	Tons. 242	Tons. 304,503	Tons. 300,827	Tons. 460	Tons. 301,287	Tons. 338,209	Tons. 395	Tons. 338,604
French	58,023	1,885	59,908	64,998	2,082	67,080	61,956	1,903	63,859	45,882	1,908	47,790	64,042	724	64,766
German	25,682	—	25,682	41,148	—	41,148	40,422	—	40,422	25,870	—	25,870	31,734	—	31,734
Russian	4,648	—	4,648	15,130	—	15,130	9,038	—	9,038	4,392	—	4,392	6,098	—	6,098
American	—	3,190	3,190	—	1,976	1,976	—	1,442	1,442	—	1,130	1,130	—	1,430	1,430
Norwegian	5,478	391	5,869	3,936	—	3,936	18,722	—	18,722	2,690	—	2,690	9,139	—	9,139
Portuguese	—	2,280	2,280	—	1,970	1,970	740	830	1,570	—	1,036	1,036	—	2,300	2,300
Danish	10,440	—	10,440	17,312	—	17,312	9,204	—	9,204	19,322	—	19,322	13,074	—	13,074
Swedish	1,990	—	1,990	—	798	798	—	—	—	1,688	224	1,912	—	224	224
Greek...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,024	—	5,024	13,012	—	13,012	20,070	—	20,070
Dutch...	6,260	—	6,260	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,086	—	3,086
Spanish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,438	—	5,438
Total	317,473	7,763	325,236	397,366	7,149	404,515	449,367	4,417	453,784	413,683	4,758	418,441	490,890	5,073	495,963

In considering the volume of trade of this Colony with Great Britain and foreign countries, it must be borne in mind that of the five European trading firms only one is British, while the remainder are French.

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES, &c.

So long as the ground-nut crop continues to thrive and to give the large return to cultivators and traders that it does at present, it is difficult to induce the people to take up other industries seriously.

The issue of 500 tons of seed-nuts by the Government to the people for planting (mentioned in last year's Report) is accountable in a considerable degree for the large increase in the nuts produced. The above amount was advanced by the principal firms. The introduction of the Coromandel nut has met with considerable success.

His Excellency the Governor obtained through the late Sir Alfred Jones, Chairman of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Company, a consignment of three and a-half bushels soya beans for experimental purposes. These beans were carefully distributed to selected chiefs and their planting and care was carefully watched over by the Travelling Commissioners, but the result has been disappointing, and it appears that the soil is not favourable to their introduction.

African millet or koos continues to be cultivated by the natives and, as has been shown in the trade section of this report, its production this year has been most successful, thus decreasing the demand for imported rice.

The agricultural school and farm at Abuko, subsidized by the Government and managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, has made great progress, and experiments have been made in planting cocoa, coffee, kola-nuts, and other products which promise well. The buildings are now complete; they consist of a brick dwelling-house for the Father in charge and the lay brother, who has had many years' experience in agriculture on the West Coast of Africa, and of a school building with a dormitory attached for the boys. Instruction is given in English by a qualified teacher for two hours a day. The remainder of the day is spent by the pupils, who number sixteen, in working in the experimental garden and farm under the direction of the instructor. The age of many of the boys (who are mostly aliens) is so young that it is too early yet to predict as to the success of the experiment.

There is some difficulty as to the supply of water, but the lay brother has been able already to show considerable promise in way of experimental agriculture. With a view to making the instruction of the lads at the school thoroughly practical, it is intended that the various contrivances adopted shall be such as the natives of the country could construct without outside assistance, and it is hoped that a simple "shaduf" method of obtaining water from the stream, as recommended by Mr. Dudgeon on his last visit, may be introduced, this being in common use in Egypt and Eastern countries.

The imported Ayrshire bulls have been carefully housed and have thriven. They have had some success, but the natives of the country are very slow in availing themselves of their services.

The number of calves showing an improved appearance is satisfactory evidence that the cross with the native cattle will result in a very much improved breed.

Some he-goats were imported from the Canary Islands but did not stand the Harmattan wind, and the first consignment succumbed, but it is hoped that their progeny will thrive, and a further attempt to import and acclimatize them will be made.

In the year 1908, Mr. Francisco Morales, a Spaniard from Teneriffe, applied for permission to start burning wood for the preparation of charcoal for export to the Canary Islands. In order to encourage a new industry, permission was granted to him to cut and remove old dead wood for this purpose free of charge, while he was told that for cutting mangrove wood he would be required to pay the ordinary charge of £1 per annum, and, for any living trees, the charges laid down in the Regulations. In the year 1909 one hundred and two tons have been exported, and thus a new industry has been started in the Colony.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the more important:—

No. 6. “An Ordinance to make provision for preventing the introduction and spread of infectious and contagious diseases affecting animals.”

This Ordinance gives very wide powers to the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for preventing the introduction and spread of disease amongst animals. Heavy penalties are inflicted for a breach of the Ordinance or Regulations, and drastic powers are given to inspectors and others.

No. 11. “An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Law in relation to children.”

This Ordinance abolishes the death sentence in the case of children under 16 years of age, and substitutes a system of detention.

No. 19. “An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the administration and distribution of the estates of intestates.”

This Ordinance repeals and re-enacts, with important additions, the Intestate Estates Ordinance, 1905. The most important addition consists of a provision for the distribution of estates at the end of two years to persons having a moral claim, though no legal right, to a share, and for the escheat to the Crown of estates to which no one has shown either a legal right or a moral claim within two years. Provision is also made for the cheaper administration of very small estates.

EDUCATION.

No Government schools are maintained in the Colony, the education being entirely denominational; but a grant is made

in each case by the Government towards the salary of the European Superintendent, and there is a further grant-in-aid based on the results of the annual examination and regularity of attendance. There are eight primary schools in the Colony and Protectorate, six in Bathurst, one in Kommbo, and one at McCarthy Island. Seven of these are established and managed by the Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic denominations. The eighth is the Mohammedan School originated by the Government, who pay the teachers. It is administered by a Board of Management consisting of the Governor as Chairman and eight of the leading members of the Mohammedan community.

During the year there were 1,139 children on the registers of the ordinary affiliated schools in Bathurst and 117 on the register of the Mohammedan School, and, in addition, 17 lads were in apprenticeship at the Wesleyan Technical and Industrial School to which the Government gives a grant of £300 per annum. In the Protectorate there were 88 children on the registers of the two Wesleyan Schools at McCarthy Island and Kommbo, giving a total of 1,361 children in attendance at the Government-aided schols, as compared with 1,326 during 1908.

At the annual examination, 585 children were presented from the Bathurst schools and 30 from the two Protectorate Schools. Of this number, 339 and 11, respectively, obtained passes in the various standards. The number of “good” and “extra good” passes is a satisfactory indication of the advance in the general standard of education.

The work of the Technical and Industrial School continues to show progress. The value of the work done by the student apprentices during the year amounts to £322 11s. 6d., and this includes carpentering and joinery and ironwork, much of which has been used in the erection of buildings in the town of Bathurst and its vicinity. At the close of the year there were seventeen boys at the school, of whom one was in his fourth year, two in their third, three in their second, and eleven in their first.

The income of the Elementary Schools under the several denominations was as here shown:—

Denomination.	Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican ...	22 2 0	102 19 3	280 3 3	405 4 6
Wesleyan ...	85 13 3 ³ / ₄	179 6 6 ¹ / ₄	272 15 9	537 15 7
Roman Catholic ...	27 4 6	253 5 0	404 14 9	685 4 3
Mohammedan...	8 16 7	—	124 13 9	133 10 4
Total ...	143 16 4 ³ / ₄	535 10 9 ¹ / ₄	1,082 7 6	1,761 14 8

The grants to the Anglican and Roman Catholic Schools include the Government grant of £150 per annum for a European Superintendent for each denomination. The Wesleyans are availing themselves of this grant in the coming year.

The expenditure of the schools for the year was:—

Denomination.	Build-ings.	Repairs.	School materials.	Salaries.	Other expendi-ture.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican ...	—	1 9 6	24 6 4	374 8 8	5 0 0	405 4 6
Wesleyan ...	2 3 0	3 14 0	19 12 4	508 16 3	3 10 0	537 15 7
Roman Catho-lic.	—	4 18 0	17 2 3	663 4 0	—	685 4 3
Mohammedan	—	—	1 6 6	128 11 2	3 12 8	133 10 4
Total ...	2 3 0	10 1 6	62 7 5	1,675 0 1	12 2 8	1,761 14 8

The Mohammedan School, which has been established since 1903, has 117 children on the register, as compared with 110 in 1908. The average attendance is 62 only. This is due to several boys having been transferred to other schools where the chances of prizes are greater. The advent of a new head-master, it is hoped, will produce better results. English and arithmetic are taught for three days of the week and Arabic on the other days.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Victoria Hospital at Bathurst is thoroughly equipped and contains first, second, and third-class wards for men, and, in a separate building, a hospital for women. No structural alterations have been made during the year. The accommodation in the wards is as follows:—Men, first-class, 4 beds; second-class, 10 beds; third-class, 24 beds; female hospital, 12 beds.

There are three resident medical officers in Bathurst, and four European nursing sisters attached to the hospital, with a native staff, comprising a chief dispenser and four assistants and dressers, and three male and one female native nurses.

The nursing sisters are from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, in Paris, and there has been no change in the staff during 1909.

The total number of admissions to the hospital has been 666, being an increase of 73 over those of 1908. The out-patients seen at the hospital number 16,149, of whom 7,324 were new cases, compared with 14,834 persons and 6,713 new cases in the previous year. The confidence of the natives in the Institution is undoubtedly increasing, as shown by the above advance. The introduction of a scale of fees payable by out-patients who can afford it has not interfered with the working of the department, 58 patients during the last six months of 1909 having paid either 3*d.* 6*d.* or 1*s.* for medicine.

The following table shows the nationality of patients treated in hospital in 1909 and the casualties:—

—			Remaining in Hospital on 31st December, 1908.	Admitted during the Year.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1909.
Europeans	...	...	—	34	2	—
Natives	...	...	15	441	30	5
Syrians	...	...	—	9	2	—
West African Frontier Force.			1	127	—	2
Civil Police	...	...	1	55	—	—
Total	...	...	17	666	34	7

Of the 34 deaths in hospital, three were from malarial fever, four from debility, and the balance calls for no special comment.

Lectures on elementary hygiene and sanitation, followed by an examination, have been delivered to school teachers, but the attendance so far has not been as good as was hoped.

The Home for destitute persons was erected on the northern outskirts of the town and opened on June 12th. The main building consists of two airy wards, and there are also the usual out-buildings and attendants' quarters. The compound is divided so that the males and females are kept apart. During the year six males and seven females were admitted, of whom two males died, and one was removed by relatives to be cared for.

The contagious diseases hospital, situated two miles from Bathurst, is maintained as usual and proves of great utility.

At the McCarthy Island dispensary eight patients and 1,117 out-patients, of whom 665 were new cases, have been under treatment. The dispensary is in charge of a dispenser and is visited by the Protectorate Medical Officer as often as he is in the vicinity.

There is a Government Savings Bank under the management of the Receiver-General. At the close of the year there were 428 accounts, an increase of 11 over the preceding year. The amount remaining on deposit was £4,411 5s. 4d., an increase of £494. The amount deposited was £2,679 15s. 4d., and the sum withdrawn was £2,185 2s. 5d. The interest payable was £96 17s. 7d.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The strength of the Police Force remains as in former years, viz., one European Superintendent, one European Assistant-Superintendent, and 70 non-commissioned officers and men. Their duties are, generally speaking, confined to the Colony, and they can only be sent into the Protectorate under the special

authority of the Governor. There are exceptions as regards McCarthy Island, where a sergeant and three constables are stationed, and a few other places where a constable is stationed for special duties.

Attached to the Police is a Merryweather manual fire-engine. The number of calls on the police on account of fires was two only and the loss of property was practically nothing.

There is only one prison in the Colony. It is an old building and does not admit of the segregation of prisoners under the modern system. The sanitary condition is carefully looked after and the health of the prisoners has been good. In consequence of the outbreak of beri-beri in the previous year the diet of the prisoners has been altered and there has only been one case in the year under report.

The daily average number of prisoners has been 20·68 compared with 23·89 in 1908. The decrease is due to a less number of prisoners having been sent in from the Protectorate. The total number of admissions during the year has been 83, and there were 19 remaining over from 1908. Of these, 80 have been discharged on completion of sentence and one has been sent to Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum in England. There were 21 admissions to hospital and one death early in the year caused by beri-beri.

Prisoners are employed in addition to the ordinary stone-breaking, on Government work, and their earnings are estimated at £162 6s. 6*d.*, while the total expenditure of the department amounted to £846 5s. 4*d.*

There were two cases of corporal punishment, both on the same individual, for violence and insubordination whilst in prison. These are the only cases in which corporal punishment has had to be resorted to for many years past.

The total number of cases brought before the Police Court was 263, being an increase of 59 as compared with the previous year. Of these, 75 resulted in acquittal, 182 in summary conviction, and six were committed to the Supreme Court for trial. The majority of the charges dealt with summarily were for minor offences against public order, but the increase in the number of offences against property and against the person is proportionately greater than the increase in the number of other offences.

The number committed for trial is half that of the previous year. They included one case of alleged murder on the part of a woman who was acquitted and is now in the Home for Destitutes. Of the remainder, one resulted in an acquittal and four in conviction.

In the Protectorate 229 cases were dealt with summarily by the Native Courts and the Commissioners, as compared with 551 in the previous year. The figures of the previous year were abnormal and appear to have been due to fines being inflicted on large numbers of men for breach of special provisions under the Protectorate Ordinance in the North Bank and Upper River

Provinces. The number of cases, however, shows a decrease of over 100 as compared with 1907.

One case of unlawful wounding committed in the Kommbo and Fogni Province in December, 1909, was awaiting trial at the Sessions at the close of the year. Four prisoners from the Protectorate were brought before the Supreme Court during the year. There was one charge of murder from the McCarthy Island Province, but a *nolle prosequi* was entered and the prisoner was discharged. Serious charges of arson and riot were made against two men from the Kommbo and Fogni Province; they were convicted and sentenced, respectively, to seven and three years' imprisonment. One other charge of murder appears on the calendars for the year, the prisoner coming also from the Kommbo and Fogni Province, but he died whilst awaiting trial.

The continued absence of serious crime in both the Colony and Protectorate is a matter for congratulation. The chiefs and headmen who form the native tribunals continue to perform their duties satisfactorily.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The last census was taken in 1901, and the population was then returned at 8,807 in Bathurst; it may be assumed that this has considerably increased in the last eight years. The population of the Protectorate is roughly estimated at 152,000.

The number of births registered in Bathurst and the Colony proper, consisting of St. Mary's Island, is 285, and 54 in those parts of the Colony administered under the Protectorate system. The birth-rate of Bathurst is 32·3 per 1,000, against 33·7 in 1908. The deaths registered were 264 in Bathurst and St. Mary's Island, and 66 in those parts administered under the Protectorate system, making a total of 330, or 57 less than those reported in 1908. The number of the deaths registered during the year is the lowest since 1900, and for the first time on record the number of births is slightly in excess of the death-rate.

There were 19 marriages solemnized in Bathurst during the year.

Taking both sexes, there were 151 European residents, of whom 38 were officials. There were three deaths among the European community, one being an official (the late Honourable H. M. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G., Acting Governor and Colonial Secretary), and one being an infant. Among the officials there was no case of invaliding, but three occurred among the other European residents.

There are 42 Friendly Societies registered in Bathurst.

The general health of the Colony remains good. In Bathurst the sanitation is under the control of the Board of Health. The

Board has done good anti-malarial work in filling up depressions and clearing water-courses, and removing broken receptacles which might form breeding places for mosquitos.

A grant of £50 was made this year for the free distribution of quinine, and 22,000 doses varying from 3 to 5 grains have been administered, for the most part to school children. The schools are visited weekly by a dispenser with supplies of quinine mixture and the distribution takes place before the children leave. Members of the Police, of the Company of the West African Frontier Force and their wives and families, and the prisoners in the gaol have all had quinine regularly administered to them since the rainy season commenced, and the willingness with which it is taken shows that its value is appreciated.

All the European residents sleep in mosquito-proof rooms or under mosquito curtains, and the provision of mosquito-proof accommodation in Government quarters for the use of officials during the daytime is under consideration.

Drinking water in the case of Europeans is obtained from the rain water from roofs which is carefully stored in locked tanks.

All the wells in the town have been completely covered in and fitted with pumps so that they may not be sources of malaria. Two of the wells have been fitted with the Janet Water Elevator; it is hoped in time to increase the number of these excellent appliances, five being provided for in the Estimates for the current year.

In the Protectorate the Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer give much attention to the sanitation and cleanliness of the towns and villages, and, as in the past, prizes for the cleanest villages in each Province are granted by the Government.

In this last year smallpox has been singularly uncommon. In Bathurst, 895 persons were vaccinated during the year, and 2,517 in the Protectorate by the Travelling Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer. A monthly supply of lymph is obtained from the Incorporated Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology. The lymph is sent from England on ice and transmitted to the Protectorate in well-constructed and protected boxes for preserving its activity.

The climate of the Gambia during the dry season, from the end of November to the middle of May, is pleasant and healthy. During the wet season, June to October, the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa, but probably on account of the great change from extreme dryness to extreme damp it is the more trying. A meteorological station of the second class is maintained at Bathurst.

Considerably more rain fell during 1909 than in the two previous years, the record being: 1907 30·33 inches, 1908 35·89 inches, and 1909 56·59 inches; but this does not appear to have had any effect on the general health of the people.

The meteorological return for the year is as follows:—

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN FOR 1909.

(BATHURST.)

Months.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Wind.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
January ...	°F. 46	°F. 92	°F. 47	°F. 45	°F. 73·0	—	E
February ...	42	98	47	51	73·5	—	N
March ...	41	105	61	44	77·0	—	N
April ...	52	93	63	30	74·6	—	N
May ...	57	99	61	38	77·2	—	N
June ...	62	99	66	33	79·8	6·13	Variable
July ...	58	99	71	28	81·0	8·87	do.
August ...	60	89	69	20	80·5	19·89	do.
September...	62	91	69	22	80·6	17·30	do.
October ...	65	92	66	26	80·5	4·40	do.
November...	55	91	66	25	78·9	—	E
December ...	51	95	61	34	77·8	—	E
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	56·59	—
Monthly average ...	54·2	95·2	62·2	33	77·8	11·31	—

MAIL, POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

There is fortnightly communication between Liverpool and Bathurst by the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, both managed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company. Owing to the large number of ports at which these steamers call and to there being no mail contract the posts both from and to England are somewhat uncertain. An occasional Woermann Line steamer from Hamburg calls at Bathurst on the outward journey to Sierra Leone.

The Messageries Maritimes have a fortnightly service from Dakar to Bordeaux which completes the voyage in eight days compared with a fortnight or longer by the Elder, Dempster boats. Dakar is only 90 miles from Bathurst, and so it is possible to join one of the above-mentioned steamers, but communication between Dakar and Bathurst is irregular, and so the opportunity of joining either the Messageries Maritimes or the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo (which call every three weeks at Dakar *en route* to Antwerp) is not often possible.

Internal communications are made by means of launches which run up the river in the service of the various trading firms, and they are ready to accept passengers and freight. The charge for

passage first-class from Bathurst to McCarthy Island, 153 miles, is £1 5s. and 12s. deck. The Government steamer "Mansah Kilah" is also available for passengers and freight at the same rate when not required for Government service.

...

POST OFFICE.

The total receipts in 1909 were £2,325, as compared with £683 in 1908; and the expenditure £820, as against £757 in 1908.

The large increase of £1,642 in receipts in 1909 is due to the sale of stamps to dealers on the new issue of postage stamps coming into use. The profit on the year has been £1,505.

The Money and Postal Orders Department shows an increase of £715 over the preceding year. This is due to the establishment of a money order office at McCarthy Island in April, 1909.

The total value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the year is £4,848 3s. 3d.

The total number of letters and parcels dealt with during the year amounted to 110,682, being a decrease of 1,374 from the number in 1908.

MILITARY FORCES.

The only regular troops in the Colony consist of the Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force.

The Company forms a detached command of the West African Frontier Force and is inspected by the Inspector-General at his periodical visits.

The Gambia Volunteer Artillery was formed under Ordinance No. 4 of 1907. It is composed of two officers and 25 non-commissioned officers and men, who are mostly enrolled from the clerks in the Government offices.

GENERAL REMARKS.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The dredging operations in the Kai Hai Channel for the purpose of deepening the river channel at that place have been vigorously pushed forward during the year.

As pointed out in a former report, it is only possible to proceed with the work for seven months in the year owing to the heavy floods during the rainy season, and the progress of the work on account of its want of continuity is much hampered. The amount of rock and mud removed from the bed of the river during the year has been, approximately, 10,000 tons.

Steamers drawing 12 feet of water can safely pass at high water ordinary spring tides.

The cost of the work, including the dredger, a special launch, lighters, and the necessary plant has been £17,215 7s. 11d. up to date. The actual expenditure during the year has been £2,996 5s. 7d.

A large steam lathe and a stone crushing machine have been erected during the year in the Public Works Department yard and have proved great acquisitions.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

The rates of wages in the Gambia, as compared with other places on the West Coast, are high, and during the planting season labour is not very plentiful. There is no opening for European labour, as the climatic conditions are unsuitable. Natives of the Cape Verde and Canary Islands, who are already inured to a hot climate, could, no doubt, work here, as some are already doing in connection with the charcoal-burning industry. They could make a livelihood in farming and market gardening as their wants are so simple.

The inhabitants of the professional trading and artisan class are quite well-to-do, and the wants of the labouring class being small they lead an easy existence. Native foodstuff is cheap and clothing is light.

The progress of the Colony has been steadily maintained. The financial position is sound, and the season of 1909-1910 promises to be most favourable, and the revenue to be collected should exceed all previous years. The development of the Protectorate has steadily advanced and with recurring good seasons in the ground-nut industry the purchasing power and the wants of the people have increased, which has resulted in an advance of trade. The country is in a very quiet and tranquil state and the people appear contented and prosperous.

C. R. M. O'BRIEN,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.							Year.
608	Colonial Survey Committee	!	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
609	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
610	Malta	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
611	Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
613	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
615	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
616	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
617	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
618	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
619	Nyasaland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
620	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
622	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
623	Somaliland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
624	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
625	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
626	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
627	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
628	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
629	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
630	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
631	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
632	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
633	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
634	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
636	Uganda	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
637	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
638	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
640	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.					Subject.
63	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	...	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	...	...	...	...	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	...	...	...	...	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1905-1906.
68	Do.	do.	...	...	...	do. 1906-1907.
69	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.

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